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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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NO WISH TO DEMAND HELMS' RESIGNATION

NED CALMER: "Senator Morse also figured in a new controversy involving Richard Helms, the new Chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, who yesterday apologized publicly to Democratic Senator J. William Fulbright for an editorial praised by Helms, which attacked the Senator.

"Here's the latest from CBS News Correspondent Martin Agronsky in Washington."

AGRONSKY: "CIA Director Richard Helms lost some face today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but held on to his job. Mr. Helms appeared at his own request before a Committee executive session to explain why he signed the letter to the editor of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, commending an editorial strongly critical of Chairman Fulbright. Helms admitted he hadn't paid sufficient attention to the letter drafted by an assistant, and regretted his carelessness.

"Having told the Senators this, and offered his apologies directly to Fulbright, Helms after the Committee hearing said to reporters, I realize it was a mistake to have signed the letter, I regret it and I've apologized.

"Senator Fulbright then said he was satisfied with the Helms' statement and apology and the Committee had no wish to demand Helms' resignation as Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse had demanded this morning.

"The CIA Director left the hearing as hurriedly and inconspicuously as he could, clearly eager to move from the brightly lit Committee hot seat back to the anonymous cold in which more discreet CIA Directors have usually functioned.

"Martin Agronsky, CBS News at the Capitol."